

IN THE DRAWING:

Please substitute the drawing sheet containing Figs. 26 and 27 with the drawing sheet containing Figs. 26 and 27 attached hereto.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The lead line from reference numeral 163 was inadvertently misdirected in Fig. 26. As the description and claims make clear, 163 designates the cutting edge of cutting element 157. A corrected drawing is attached hereto and entry of the corrected drawing is respectfully solicited.

The specification has been formally amended to delete subject matter no longer claimed in this divisional application. Furthermore, references to claim numbers have been replaced by the actual claim language.

The claims have been rewritten in an effort to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. The present claims are free of optional phrases, provide clear antecedent language for all positively recited steps or features, and are believed to conform fully with U.S. practice. The subject matter of claims 15 and 45 is no longer claimed. (No "rotating cutting element" is found in claim 29 and applicant assumes that the Examiner meant to refer to claim 45.)

If applied to present method claims 46-50, their rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung, the primary reference, in view of Cowan et al, cited, is

respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that Cowan et al do not suggest the method of claim 46 for separating excess projection 5 of Jung.

In Cowan et al's trim machine formed sheet 18 is held in a clamp frame in which it is held during a trim operation in which the clamp frame is rotated by 90° in either direction while a pair of reciprocating shear blades 42 at opposite sides of the formed sheet trim the side walls of the sheet. The two blades do not cooperate with each other but cut opposed portions of the circumferential walls. In the first place, this patent does not deal with separating an excess projection at intersecting side walls of a corner region but trims circumferential side walls of a tub or tank. Most importantly, there is no suggestion of placing the free end faces of the side walls on guide surfaces of bearing elements for the side walls. In fact, the free end faces of Cowan et al's side walls are unsupported when being trimmed. Furthermore, Cowan et al do **not** place **any** portion of the side walls between two cooperating cutting elements. Rather, their blades 42 are placed on opposite sides of the formed sheet. They, of course, do **not** have cutting edges in alignment with non-existing guide surfaces of non-existing bearing elements. Finally, excess projection of the side walls is separated by displacing one of the cutting elements against the other cutting element. Thus,

claim 46 is respectfully submitted clearly to be patentable over the art.

The dependent claims recite additional and optional features believed to be allowable on their own merits.

The system claims were not rejected on the prior art, and claims 51-54 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 46-54 are respectfully solicited.

A request for extension is attached.

Respectfully submitted,
MARKUS HAMETNER

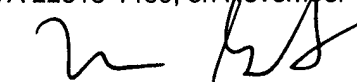


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Encls.: 1 sheet of formal drawing, containing Figs. 26 and 27.
Request for extension

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 10, 2004.



Maria Guastella